

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 5 and replace with the following paragraph:

Partial maturation of immature dendritic cells can be monitored by methods known in the art for dendritic cells. Cell surface markers can be detected in assays familiar to the art, such as flow cytometry, immunohistochemistry, and the like. The cells can also be monitored for cytokine production (e.g., by ELISA, another immune assay, or by use of an oligonucleotide array). In DCs cultured and partially matured according to the present invention in the presence of a dendritic cell maturation agent, such as GM-CSF and IL-4, the levels of phosphorylated JAK2 (janus activated kinase 2) can be measured to indicate the initiation of maturation by methods well known in the art. The induction of the expression of cell surface markers and cytokines, as well as the phosphorylation of signaling molecules, e.g., jak2, is also known as an indicator that dendritic cells are conditioned for induction of an immune response once the cells have been administered to an individual.